2 Maccabees 8

1611 King James Version

Compiled By M. Love

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Also read 2 Macccabees in the 1535 Coverdale, 1537 Matthew's, 1539 Taverner's, 1540 Great Bible, 1560 Geneva, 1568 Bishop's, and the 1382 Wycliffe (handwritten in Middle English) Bible versions.

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8:1 Then Judas Maccabeus, and they that were with him, went privily into the towns, and

called their kinsfolks together, and took unto them all such as continued in the Jews' religion, and assembled about six thousand men.

8:2 And they called upon the Lord, that he would look upon the people that was trodden down of all; and also pity the temple profaned of ungodly men;

8:3 And that he would have compassion upon the city, sore defaced, and ready to be made even with the ground; and hear the blood that cried unto him,

8:4 And remember the wicked slaughter of harmless infants, and the blasphemies committed against his name; and that he would shew

his hatred
against the
wicked.
8:5 Now when
Maccabeus had
his company
about him, he
could not be
withstood by
the heathen: for
the wrath of the

Lord was turned into mercy.

8:6 Therefore he came at unawares, and burnt up towns and cities, and got into his hands the most commodious

places, and overcame and put to flight no small number of his enemies.
8:7 But specially took he advantage of the night for such privy attempts,

insomuch that the fruit of his holiness was spread every where.

8:8 So when Philip saw that this man increased by little and little, and that things

prospered with him still more and more, he wrote unto Ptolemeus, the governor of Celosyria and Phenice, to yield more aid to the king's affairs.

8:9 Then forthwith choosing Nicanor the son of Patroclus, one of his special friends, he sent him with no fewer than twenty thousand of all

nations under him, to root out the whole generation of the Jews; and with him he joined also Gorgias a captain, who in matters of war had great

experience.
8:10 So
Nicanor
undertook to
make so much
money of the
captive Jews,
as should
defray the
tribute of two
thousand

talents, which
the king was
to pay to the
Romans.
8:11 Wherefore
immediately he
sent to the
cities upon the
sea coast,
proclaiming a
sale of the

captive Jews, and promising that they should have fourscore and ten bodies for one talent, not expecting the vengeance that was to follow upon him from

the Almighty God.

8:12 Now when word was brought unto Judas of Nicanor's coming, and he had imparted unto those that were with him

that the army
was at hand,
8:13 They that
were fearful,
and distrusted
the justice of
God, fled, and
conveyed
themselves
away.
8:14 Others

sold all that
they had left,
and withal
besought the
Lord to deliver
them, sold by
the wicked
Nicanor before
they met
together:

8:15 And if not

for their own sakes, yet for the covenants he had made with their fathers, and for his holy and glorious name's sake, by which they were called.

8:16 So Maccabeus called his men together unto the number of six thousand, and exhorted them not to be stricken with terror of the enemy, nor to

fear the great multitude of the heathen, who came wrongly against them; but to fight manfully,

8:17 And to set before their eyes the injury that they had

unjustly done to the holy place, and the cruel handling of the city, whereof they made a mockery, and also the taking away of the government of

their
forefathers:
8:18For they,
said he, trust in
their weapons
and boldness;
but our
confidence is in
the Almighty
who at a beck
can cast down

both them that come against us, and also all the world.

8:19 Moreover, he recounted unto them what helps their forefathers had found, and how they were

delivered, when under Sennacherib an hundred fourscore and five thousand perished.

8:20 And he told them of the battle that they had in Babylon

with the Galatians, how they came but eight thousand in all to the business, with four thousand Macedonians, and that the Macedonians being

perplexed, the eight thousand destroyed an hundred and twenty thousand because of the help that they had from heaven, and so received a great

booty.
8:21 Thus
when he had
made them
bold with these
words, and
ready to die for
the law and the
country, he
divided his
army into four

parts;
8:22 And
joined with
himself his own
brethren,
leaders of each
band, to wit
Simon, and
Joseph, and
Jonathan,
giving each one

fifteen hundred men.

8:23 Also he appointed Eleazar to read the holy book: and when he had given them this watchword, The help of God; himself

leading the first band,
8:24 And by the help of the Almighty they slew above nine thousand of their enemies, and wounded and maimed the

most part of Nicanor's host, and so put all to flight;

8:25 And took their money that came to buy them, and pursued them far: but lacking time they

returned:

8:26 For it was the day before the sabbath, and therefore they would no longer pursue them.

8:27 So when they had gathered their

armour together, and spoiled their enemies, they occupied themselves about the sabbath, yielding exceeding praise and

thanks to the Lord, who had preserved them unto that day, which was the beginning of mercy distilling upon them.

8:28 And after the sabbath, when they had

given part of the spoils to the maimed, and the widows, and orphans, the residue they divided among themselves and their servants.

8:29 When this

was done, and
they had made
a common
supplication,
they besought
the merciful
Lord to be
reconciled with
his servants
for ever.
8:30 Moreover

of those that were with Timotheus and Bacchides, who fought against them, they slew above twenty thousand, and very easily got high and strong holds, and

divided among themselves many spoils more, and made the maimed, orphans, widows, yea, and the aged also, equal in spoils with

themselves.
8:31 And when
they had
gathered their
armour
together, they
laid them up all
carefully in
convenient
places, and the
remnant of the

spoils they brought to Jerusalem.

8:32 They slew also Philarches, that wicked person, who was with Timotheus, and had annoyed the Jews

many ways.
8:33 Furthermore at such time as they kept the feast for the victory in their country they burnt Callisthenes, that had set fire upon the holy

gates, who had fled into a little house; and so he received a reward meet for his wickedness.
8:34 As for that most ungracious Nicanor, who had brought a

thousand merchants to buy the Jews,
8:35 He was through the help of the Lord brought down by them, of whom he made least account; and putting off

his glorious apparel, and discharging his company, he came like a fugitive servant through the midland unto Antioch having very great dishonour, for

that his host
was destroyed.
8:36 Thus he,
that took upon
him to make
good to the
Romans their
tribute by
means of
captives in
Jerusalem, told

abroad, that the Jews had God to fight for them, and therefore they could not be hurt, because they followed the laws that he gave them.